

REMARKS

Claims 2-6, 9, 11-14, 16-19 and 42-49 are pending in the Application. Claim 2 has been amended herein in accordance with a telephone interview conducted with the Examiner. Claim 49 has been indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Withdrawn claims 27-29, 31, and 35-38 have been canceled.

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for taking the time to conduct a telephone interview with the undersigned on July 21, 2004. During such interview, a proposed amendment to claim 2 was discussed, and an agreement was reached that claim 2, as amended herein, appeared to be novel with respect to the cited art, although a further search may be necessary.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIM 2-6, 9, 11-14, 16-19 AND 42-48 UNDER 35 USC §102(b)

Claims 2-6, 9, 11-14, 16-19 and 42-48 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) based on PCT International Publication WO 98/37438 by Srinivasan (hereinafter the PCT publication). Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Amended claim 2 recites an integrated radio-frequency coil array that includes three coils; a first coil, a second coil and a third coil. Additionally, the coil array includes a first common coil path that includes at least one reactive component, wherein the second coil and the third coil share the first common coil path without overlap, and the second coil and the third coil adjoin one another without overlap.

The PCT publication discloses a coil array that includes two coils that overlap.¹ However, the PCT publication does not teach or suggest a coil array having a first, second and third coil, wherein the coil array includes a first common coil path that includes at least one reactive component, and the second coil and the third coil share the first common coil path without overlap, and the second coil and the third coil adjoin one another without overlap, as recited in amended claim 2.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 2 is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-6, 9, 11-14, 16-19 and 42-48 directly or indirectly depend from amended claim 2 and, therefore, can be distinguished from the PCT publication for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3-6, 9, 11-14, 16-19 and 42-48 is respectfully requested.

III. NON-ELECTED CLAIMS

Non-elected claims 20-26, 30, 32-34 and 39-41 now depend from allowable claim 2 (directly or indirectly) and therefore should also now be allowable. Non-elected claims 27-29, 31 and 35-38 are now redundant in view of the amendments made to claim 2 and therefore have been cancelled.

IV. CONCLUSION

Accordingly, claims 2-6, 9, 11-14, 16-19 and 42-49 are believed to be allowable, and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Additionally, Applicant respectfully requests that should claim 2 be allowed, non-elected claims 20-26, 30, 32-34 and 39-41, which depend from claim 2, be reinstated and allowed. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

¹ See, e.g., Figs. 7a, 7b, 7g, page 17, line 28, page 19, lines 5-6, 20 and 33, page 20, line 10 and page 21, lines 9-10 and 22-23 of the PCT publication.

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Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



July 28, 2004
DATE